



## STENNIS SPACE CENTER

### Visitors Center Fact Sheet

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NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, Miss., has become one of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's leading tourist attractions. Each year, over 100,000 people from all over the world visited the space center, representing all 50 states and 60 foreign countries.

Stennis' Visitors Center offers exciting and informative programs for visitors of all ages. Guided tours, films, demonstrations and an extensive collection of exhibits and displays highlight the visit to Stennis Space Center.

The guided tour takes visitors through the Space Shuttle Main Engine test complex where the shuttle's powerful main engines are proven flight worthy before being placed on the orbiter. When an engine test is conducted during the Visitors Center's hours of operation, guests have the opportunity to view the test. The tour also takes visitors past Stennis' hyacinth pond, a natural wastewater treatment facility, and the 7 1/2-mile manmade Panama Canal-type lock system used to transport and liquid propellants and, formerly, large rocket stages.

Outside the Visitors Center, exhibits include a Space Shuttle external fuel tank and solid rocket booster and a scale model of a Saturn V rocket which took America's astronauts to the moon. An F-1 engine that powered the first stage of the Saturn rocket and a 68-foot Jupiter-C rocket, sister ship to the vehicle that carried America's first satellite into orbit, are also on display.

In the Visitors Center auditorium, guests enjoy a wide selection of movies related to space flight, living and working in space, and future space projects. The indoor display area contains a moon rock estimated to be over three billion years old which was collected by the crew of the Apollo 15 mission. An exhibit featuring astronauts from Mississippi and a mural from the Paris Air Show can also be seen.

The Visitors Center's Hall of Achievements highlights space travel history and future NASA missions. It also includes exhibits that represent many of the 22 other agencies in residence at Stennis, including the world-class Naval Meteorological and Oceanographic Command, National Data Buoy Center, National Marine Fisheries, U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency and Gulf of

Mexico Program.

Stennis Space Center's Visitors Center is open seven days a week, except Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. There is no admission charge. Tours depart on a regular basis each day, and cameras are allowed throughout the Visitors Center and on the guided tour. Special presentations for groups can be arranged by contacting the Visitors Center for reservations.

Stennis Space Center is located on Mississippi Highway 607 with easy access from Interstates 10 and 59. Signs are located along the roadways with directions to the space center and the Visitors Center.

For more information or to make reservations for special groups, call the Visitors Center at (601) 688-2370.



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**Document:** FS-SSC-006 (9507)  
**Modified:** July 1995

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